

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of Applicants foreign priority document in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §119. In accordance with the Examiner's request, Applicants have modified Figure 9 to indicate that it is a conventional device.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 4 and 11. Applicants submit that all claims currently stand in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art inventions of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicants claimed invention. More specifically, Applicants note that the Tanaka reference merely discloses a driving method wherein either an all-pixel read-out mode in which signal charges of all pixels generated in the pixels are read individually at the same time, or in a thin read-out mode in which the signal charges are read only from a portion of vertical pixel columns formed by the devices. Tanaka merely describes frequency variation for varying a driving frequency depending on the operating mode in order to selectively read parts of vertical pixel columns only. Applicants presently claimed invention is a much more sophisticated read-out device which more flexibly allows specific selection of pixels in both rows and columns. The art of record fails to either teach or suggest this advance.

In conventional CCD type imagers, pixel charges of a horizontal pixel line are all read out at the same time and cannot be selected because each transfer electrode of the vertical

transistor and read-out gate electrode located between output portions of the vertical registers and the horizontal register are common for pixel charges in a given horizontal pixel line. There is simply no teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding a device wherein pixel signals are both read from rows and columns as in the instant application.

In conclusion, and based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1794.

Date: 2/15/05

Respectfully submitted,


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Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2004



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail on **February 15, 2005** in an envelope addressed to:

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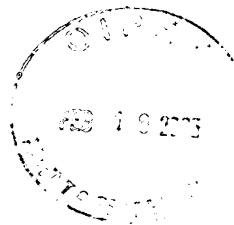
AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 9.

The sheet which includes Fig. 9 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 9. The designation Prior Art has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Change



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FIG. 9

